

South Carolina AHEConnects Goes Online

Ali McMenamin, Program Coordinator

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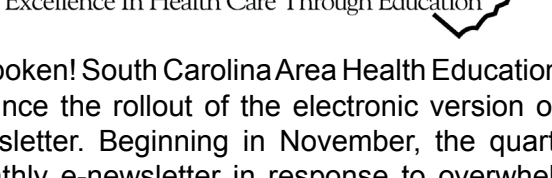
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The readers have spoken! South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) is excited to announce the rollout of the electronic version of the *South Carolina AHEConnects* newsletter. Beginning in November, the quarterly print newsletter will become a monthly e-newsletter in response to overwhelming feedback from readers. The e-newsletter will arrive via email each month filled with the most up-to-date program news and upcoming educational opportunities for readers. The SC AHEC hopes that the move to an electronic format will allow news to reach readers in a more timely and relevant manner.

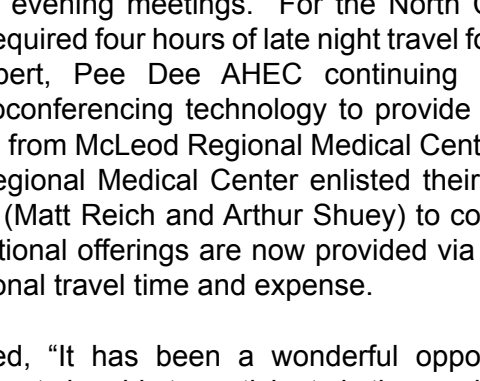
Submissions for the upcoming newsletter will be accepted monthly and are due to the Program Office no later than the last business day of every month. The newsletter will go out to readers on the second Tuesday of the following month. Entries are requested to be no longer than 300 words and must have a picture or logo to accompany them.

Submission suggestions include: upcoming events and programming; welcoming new staff to the SC AHEC system, recognizing awards for those affiliated with the system; and updates about grants, funding and partnership activities. Please be sure to include: a link to additional information (if applicable); a logo, graphic or photo; and a contact person with an email address.

The Program Office is now accepting submissions for the December 2013 edition. Please send submissions to Ali McMenamin at mcmenami@muscc.edu by November 29.

Echsonographers...Always Looking at the “Heart of the Patient” Through New Technology and Education

Kay Lambert, Program Coordinator



The Pee Dee Echo Society sponsors quarterly meetings that include Adult Echo CMEs from the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Sonographers from around the local area, as well as sonographers from New Hanover Regional Medical Center, attend these quarterly evening meetings. For the North Carolina sonographers, these meetings once required four hours of late night travel for accredited continuing education. Kay Lambert, Pee Dee AHEC continuing education coordinator, suggested using videoconferencing technology to provide the training across the border. Sherry Gibson from McLeod Regional Medical Center and Rachel Marshall from New Hanover Regional Medical Center enlisted their respective information technology specialists (Matt Reich and Arthur Shuey) to collaborate on a solution. As a result, the educational offerings are now provided via videoconferencing and have eliminated additional travel time and expense.

Rachel Marshall stated, “It has been a wonderful opportunity for the cardiac sonographers in our area to be able to participate in these educational meetings. We are able to network with fellow sonographers and share knowledge without traveling a great distance. We are grateful to Pee Dee AHEC, as well as the Pee Dee Echo Society for including our area sonographers in this endeavor. We hope to be a part of the growth of this program in the future.”

Sherry Gibson stated, “We are extremely proud that our patients benefit from the work of these highly skilled echsonographers. We also take pride in practicing our craft with maximum employee satisfaction as well.”

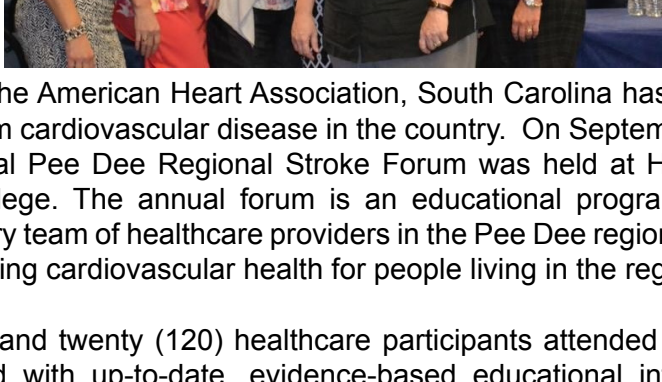
The partnership between these two hospital professional groups has proven to be beneficial to both hospital departments.

Contact Kay Lambert for more information at klambert@mcleodhealth.org.

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Interprofessional Collaborators Present 2nd Annual Pee Dee Regional STEMI Stroke Forum

Vickie S. Pigate, BSN, RN



According to the American Heart Association, South Carolina has the 16th highest death rate from cardiovascular disease in the country. On September 27, 2013, the Second Annual Pee Dee Regional Stroke Forum was held at Horry Georgetown Technical College. The annual forum is an educational program created by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare providers in the Pee Dee region with the ultimate goal of improving cardiovascular health for people living in the region.

One-hundred and twenty (120) healthcare participants attended the program and were provided with up-to-date, evidence-based educational information on the prevention, identification, and treatment of heart disease and stroke.

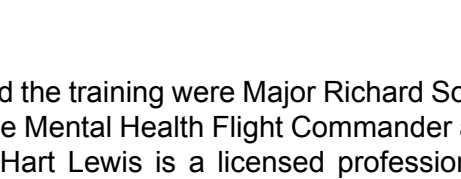
The interprofessional collaborative teams consisted of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and educators with representatives from Carolinas Hospital System, Conway Medical Center, Florence County EMS, Georgetown Technical College, Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Horry County Fire and Rescue, Myrtle Beach Fire and Rescue, McLeod Health, Murrells Inlet Fire and Rescue, Pee Dee AHEC, and Air Methods. By using a multidisciplinary, healthcare provider approach to address cardiovascular disease in the Pee Dee region, participants helped to identify opportunities for improvement in the care we deliver to our patients.

Contact Vickie Pigate for more information at vpigate@mcleodhealth.org.

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Pee Dee AHEC Provides Behavioral and Mental Health Program for Veterans, Service Members and Their Families

Kay Lambert, Program Coordinator



Pee Dee AHEC recently provided a training program for healthcare professionals to increase their knowledge about military culture and inherent mental health issues as it relates to veterans, service members, and their families. The ability to provide this training was made possible by a HRSA Federal Grant: A-TrACC (AHEC-Training and Consultation Center).

The program was held on July 17, 2013, at Tuomey Regional Medical Center in Sumter, SC. Shaw Air Force Base Honor Guard presented the national colors in traditional military protocol. Thirty-three participants attended this training with multiple healthcare disciplines present, i.e., Chaplains, Counselors, Case managers, LPNs, RNs, Nurse Practitioners, Dietitians, Administrative Assistants, and Medical Assistants.

The faculty that provided the training were Major Richard Soto and Jane Hart Lewis. Major Soto serves as the Mental Health Flight Commander at Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter, SC and Jane Hart Lewis is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in Florence, SC. Major Soto discussed the unique challenges of veterans, service members and families ranging from separation of loved ones to the current threat from drug and alcohol abuse to increased prescription drug abuse. He also warned of the use of phrases that can halt communication...“I understand” and “You are going to be fine!”

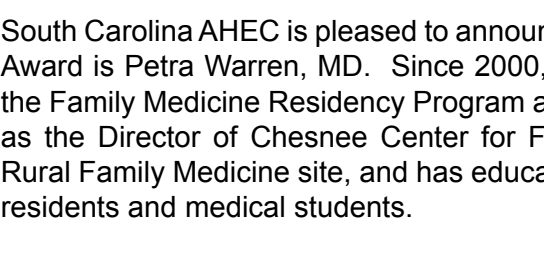
Jane Hart Lewis spoke about the new guidelines that are seen in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition* (DSM-V) with the diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as well as those at highest risk of suicide. Mrs. Lewis also spoke about how the children of veterans and service members may now be diagnosed with and treated for PTSD if they have experienced the trauma of combat vicariously.

Contact Kay Lambert for more information at klambert@mcleodhealth.org.

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Women’s Health Day 2013

Natasha Chatman, M.Ed., LCAHEC Health Careers Program Coordinator



Women’s Health Day (WHD) is an annual community-wide project sponsored by Colleton Medical Center (CMC) in Walterboro, SC. This event provides Colleton County with information on health-related topics that affect the female population. Exhibitors disseminate information on healthcare services within the community and health professionals provide screenings. This year Vonda Calcutt, MD, an endocrinologist at Lowcountry Center for Diabetes & Endocrinology, served as the keynote speaker.

For the past four years, Health Careers Academy (HCA) students from Lowcountry AHEC have assisted with registration and serving dinner. CMC’s director of dining services was very impressed with the HCA students and their level of engagement. He identified several students who demonstrated strong leadership qualities. One of those students was Tabitha Frazier, a HCA scholar. Ms. Frazier states, “I always enjoy participating in this event. It’s fun and I think it’s great for our community.” WHD is only one of many community outreach projects for Lowcountry AHEC’s HCA students. These students are devoted to a serving others and making a positive difference in their community.

Contact Natasha Chatman for more information at chatmann@lcahec.com.

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Awards

Petra Warren, MD Receives Halford Award for Leadership in Humane Education

South Carolina AHEC is pleased to announce that this year’s recipient of the Halford Award is Petra Warren, MD. Since 2000, Dr. Warren has been an integral part of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Spartanburg Regional. She has served as the Director of Chesnee Center for Family Medicine, Spartanburg Regional’s Rural Family Medicine site, and has educated and influenced countless numbers of residents and medical students.

The Halford Award is presented to a Family Medicine residency training program faculty member in recognition of outstanding leadership in providing humane education. It is named on behalf of Dr. James G. Halford, Jr., the founding director of the Anderson Family Medicine Residency Training Program. Award winners demonstrate a caring attitude and respect for patients, residents and students; value human dignity; demonstrate a passion and joy for teaching, learning and working with others and participate in community service activities.

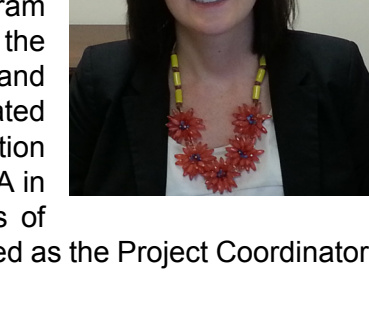
Ramage Award for Leadership in Humane Education Presented to Everett Joseph Walton, Jr., MD

The Eighth Annual Raymond C. Ramage, MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was presented to Everett Joseph Walton, Jr., MD, by Dr. Otis Baughman, Director of Medical Education at Spartanburg Regional, during the graduation of Spartanburg Regional’s family medicine residents. Since 1983, Dr. Walton has served as the Director of Internal Medicine Education and Director of the Transitional Year Program at Spartanburg Regional. Dr. Walton is truly an outstanding physician and educator who exemplifies the wonderful characteristics of the Ramage Award: passion for teaching, the highest respect for human dignity, community service and a truly caring attitude towards all patients.

The Ramage Award was established by South Carolina AHEC to recognize a deserving faculty member in a specialty other than Family Medicine. The award is based on a similar award, The Halford Award, which recognizes leadership in humanitarianism in Family Medicine. Dr. Raymond Ramage was an integral part of the formation of the South Carolina Consortium of Community Teaching Hospitals in 1970 and was a “founding father” of the South Carolina AHEC in 1972.

South Carolina AHEC Excellence in Family Medicine Education Award Presented to Roger D. Harmon

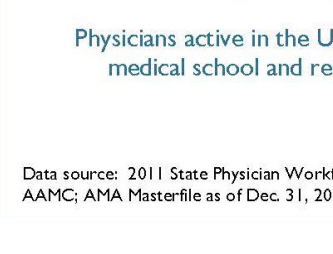
The Fourth Annual South Carolina AHEC Excellence in Family Medicine Education Award was presented to Roger D. Harmon with Spartanburg Regional. Mr. Harmon has served the healthcare industry for nearly 40 years, with diverse responsibilities in the areas of administration, operations, and education. Mr. Harmon has been teaching Practice Management to Spartanburg Regional’s Family Medicine residents since 1983. He has tirelessly taught and helped organize a wonderful rotation and makes himself available to residents throughout residency and afterward to assist in management questions and decisions.



This award was established to honor a non-physician teacher for excellence in resident education, with demonstrated skills in teaching, curriculum development, mentoring, research, and leadership in education.

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New Additions to the South Carolina AHEC System

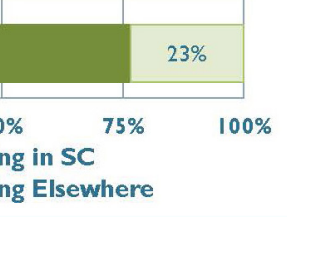


Diana Caron Continuing Education Coordinator Lowcountry AHEC

Diana has been a Registered Nurse for the past twenty-seven years. She has a Master’s degree in Education and has taught in the health and medical field for the past twenty years. Her duties at Lowcountry AHEC include: conducting needs assessment as part of the Lowcountry AHEC continuing education team; assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating CE nursing and allied health programs; and identify nursing continuing education event resources to include instructors, venue sites, etc.

Contact Diana at carond@lcahec.com.

Ali McMenamin Program Coordinator South Carolina AHEC



Alicia (Ali) McMenamin joined the SC AHEC Program Office team on October 14 and is assisting with the SCHOOLS network of videoconferencing systems and with SC AHEC communication initiatives. She graduated from Northwestern University with a BS in Communication Studies and from The University of Alabama with a MA in Advertising and Public Relations. She has five years of experience in higher education and most recently served as the Project Coordinator at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Contact Ali at mcmenami@muscc.edu.

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Retaining Physicians Educated in South Carolina

Office for Healthcare Workforce Analysis and Planning



Medical education is expensive for both the students and the states that support physician education in public universities and clinical training sites. Understanding the factors that influence where physicians decide to practice can help states maximize the return on their investment in this important public health resource. Physicians educated in the United States have the luxury of being able to practice anywhere in the country they choose, yet policies affecting student admissions and residency training opportunities can be influential.

For the full fact sheet click [here](#). Additional policy briefs are available at www.officeforhealthcareworkforce.org.

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